

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SAN JO 00228 221741Z

50

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 SPC-03 AID-20 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

SCI-06 FEA-02 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INT-08

L-03 H-03 DRC-01 EUR-25 DLOS-06 COA-02 CEQ-02 EPA-04

PRS-01 /172 W

----- 050273

R 212250Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5979

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

.AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR 3045

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 0228

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, CS, ENRG

SUBJECT: ENERGY CRISIS: PETROLEUM EXPLORATION

REF: SAN JOSE 0179

1. JORGE VILLALOBOS, DIRECTOR OF HYDROCARBONS OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE INFORMED EMBOFF THAT CONTINENTAL OIL CO. (CONOCO) REPS HAD, IN RECENT TALKS WITH HIM, EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN POSSIBLE OIL EXPLORATION IN THE GOLFO DULCE AREA, LOCATED IN THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC REGION OF COSTA RICA.

2. THE ONLY PETROLEUM EXPLORATION PROJECT CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN COSTA RICA IN ONE BEING CONDUCTED BY THE FRENCH CONSORTIUM, ELF-ERAP. THE ELF-ERAP PROJECT IS OFF THE ATLANTIC COAST. ACCORDING TO VILLALOBOS, THE GOCR IS INTERESTED IN EXPLORING FURTHER FUNDING--PRESUMABLY IN FRANCE--FOR THIS PROJECT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SAN JO 00228 221741Z

3. WITH REGARD TO THE LAW-OF-THE-SEA PROBLEM, THE AREA UNDER CURRENT EXPLORATION BY ELF-ERAP, APPARENTLY LIES WITHIN 12 MILES OF THE COSTA RICAN COAST. THE GOLFO DULCE AREA, IN WHICH CONOCO HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST, LIES TOTALLY WITHIN COSTA RICA'S TERRITORIAL LIMITS AS ITS SEAWARD SIDE IS PRACTICALLY SURROUNDED BY THE OAS PENINSULA.

4. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, VILLALOBOS CONFIRMED THAT A NEW HYDROCARBONS LAW WILL BE SENT TO THE ASSEMBLY SHORTLY AFTER THE FEBRUARY 3 NATIONAL ELECTIONS. WHILE REFERENCE IS MADE IN THE PROPOSED LAW TO "MARITIME TERRITORY", ACCORDING TO VILLALOBOS NO DEFINITION OF THE LIMITS COVERED BY THIS TERMINOLOGY IS MADE IN THE PROPOSED LAW. RATHER, ANY SUCH DEFINITION OR INTERPRETATION IS TO BE LEFT TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS TO MAKE. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET SEEN COPY OF PROPOSED LAW AND MEIC APPEARS TO WISH TO HOLD IT TIGHT AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER ELECTIONS.

VAKY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, EXPLORATION, OFFSHORE DRILLING, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, LAW OF THE SEA, TERRITORIAL WATERS, MARITIME LAW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANJO00228
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740127/aaaaaznu.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SAN JOSE 0179
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2002 by kellew0>; APPROVED <10-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENERGY CRISIS: PETROLEUM EXPLORATION
TAGS: EGEN, ENRG, CS, FR, CONOCO, ELF-ERAP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005